1		Chief Magistrate Judge James P. Donohue
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3	JAN 23 2018	
4	AT SEATTLE CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON BY	
5	BY DEPUTY	
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7	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE	
8	WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE	
9		
10		CASE NO. MJ18-03/
11	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	CASE NO. MIJI &
12	Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT for VIOLATION
13	v.	Title 18, U.S.C. Section 371
14	PAUL STUART BRUNT and RAWND KHALEEL ALDALAWI,	Thie 16, O.S.C. Section 371
15		
16	Defendants.	
17	BEFORE, James P. Donohue, Chief United States Magistrate Judge, U. S.	
18	Courthouse, Seattle, Washington.	
19	The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:	
20	COUNT ONE	
21	(Conspiracy to Violate the Arms Export Control Act)	
22	Beginning at a time unknown, but not later than October 5, 2016, and continuing	
23	until on or about November 27, 2017, at Bellevue, within the Western District of	
24	Washington, and elsewhere, PAUL STUART BRUNT, RAWND KHALEEL	
25	ALDALAWI, and other persons known and unknown, knowingly and intentionally did	
26	conspire to willfully export defense articles designated on the United States Munitions	
27	List, International Traffic in Arms Regulations, from the United States to Turkey and	
28	Iraq, without having obtained from the United States Department of State a license or	

written approval for the export of these defense articles, in violation of the Arms Export Control Act, Title 22, United States Code, Section 2778(b)(2), and Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 121.1, 123.1, and 127.1(a).

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A. **Background Law**

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The Arms Export Control Act ("AECA") generally prohibits, without the

appropriate license, the export of defense articles and defense services, which are

designated by the President. See 22 U.S.C. § 2778(b)(2). The AECA provides for

criminal penalties for willful violations of the Act. See 22 U.S.C. § 2278(c).

- 2. The Department of State, exercising for the President the above authority under the AECA, has promulgated the International Traffic in Arms Regulations ("ITAR"), 22 C.F.R. § 120.1 et seq. These regulations include the Munitions List, which consists of categories of defense articles and services that cannot be exported without a license issued by the Department of State's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls ("DDTC"). See 22 C.F.R. §§ 121.1, 123.1, 127.1.
- 3. Category I of the Munitions List includes firearms and their components. As a result, the export of firearms and/or their components generally requires an export license issued by the DDTC.
- 4. Title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 30.6 provides that a shipper exporting items must provide the accurate value and description of the items that were shipped.

В. Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

- 5. It was part of the conspiracy that PAUL STUART BRUNT, RAWND KHALEEL ALDALAWI, and other persons known and unknown, purchased a variety of firearms and vehicles.
- 6. It was part of the conspiracy that PAUL STUART BRUNT, RAWND KHALEEL ALDALAWI, and other persons known and unknown, plotted to hide the firearms in the vehicles for the purpose of smuggling the firearms to Kurdish forces in Iraq.

- 7. It was part of the conspiracy that PAUL STUART BRUNT, RAWND KHALEEL ALDALAWI, and other persons known and unknown, completed Customs forms that falsely described the exports as containing only vehicles.
- 8. It was part of the conspiracy that PAUL STUART BRUNT, RAWND KHALEEL ALDALAWI, and other persons known and unknown, exported the hidden firearms on multiple occasions, with the intention that they be given to Kurdish forces in Iraq.
 - C. Overt Acts in Furtherance of the Conspiracy
- 9. During and in furtherance of the conspiracy, within the Western District of Washington and elsewhere, one or more of the conspirators committed one or more of the following overt acts, among others:
- a. On April 14, 2017, PAUL BRUNT purchased a Sig Sauer pistol, model 1911, .45 caliber, at a gun show in Monroe, Washington, for the purpose of later attempting to export the firearm to Kurdish forces in Iraq without the required export license.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371. And the complainant states that this Complaint is based on the following information:

I, Shad Severson, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and say:

INTRODUCTION

10. I am a Special Agent with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"), Homeland Security Investigations ("HSI"). I have been employed as a Special Agent with the DHS or a predecessor agency for approximately fifteen years. I am currently assigned to the Office of the Special Agent in Charge, Seattle, Washington. I have worked in groups assigned to investigate money laundering and bulk cash smuggling, drug trafficking, and matters involving internal affairs such as corruption and fraud. I am currently assigned to the Counter-Proliferation Investigations ("CPI") Group, where I investigate cases involving the illegal exportation of weapons and other items from the United States.

11. While working for DHS, I have been trained in, among other things, criminal investigative techniques and export-control investigations. I have received considerable training and have personal experience as a lead investigator with identifying the techniques, methods, and procedures employed by groups, organizations, companies, corporations, and individuals to export or attempt to export goods and commodities in violation of U.S. law. I have received formal training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia. Based on my training and experience, I am familiar with the manner in which individuals illegally acquire and export controlled merchandise from the United States to foreign countries.

12. As outlined below, there is probable cause to believe that PAUL STUART BRUNT and RAWND KHALEEL ALDALAWI engaged in a scheme to export firearms from the United States to Iraq, via Turkey, that were intended for Kurdish fighters in northern Iraq, without a required export license.

SUMMARY OF PROBABLE CAUSE

A. The Recent Seizure

- 13. On November 27, 2017, the U.S. Government was notified that Turkish authorities in Mersin had seized a shipment of undeclared firearms concealed within two vehicles. The vehicles were shipped from the Port of Seattle, via sea container, to Mersin, Turkey. On November 28, 2017, HSI Seattle received documentation related to the shipment, to include the Electronic Export Information ("EEI") ¹ filed for the shipment and the corresponding Sea Waybill.²
- 14. According to a review of the EEI, PAUL BRUNT was identified as the U.S. Principal Party (i.e., the exporter). The EEI listed the ultimate consignee as AKMAR ULUS. NAK. SAN. VE TIC., Camiserif Mah. Cemalpasa Cad, Yuksel Apt.

¹ EEI is the export data that generally must be filed either by the exporter or the freight forwarder with U.S. Customs whenever the export exceeds \$2,500, or if the goods require an export license.

² A Sea Waybill is a document that reflects a contract of carriage and receipt of the goods being transported.

- 15. A review of the Sea Waybill identified the shipper as Atlantic Express Corp. The consignee name and address on the Sea Waybill revealed the same information as the EEI. Additionally, the description of the vehicles shipped, to include the VINs, were also consistent with those listed on the EEI.
- 16. On December 13, 2017, investigators obtained records from Patterson Kia of Arlington, TX, related to the purchase of the Ford Mustang vehicle identified by Turkish Customs, which contained the seized firearms. According to the records, the purchaser of the 2016 Ford Mustang, bearing VIN 1FA6P8AM0G5292936, was identified as PAUL BRUNT. The purchase records indicated the sale occurred on May 1, 2017, and the vehicle was paid for by wire transfer in the amount of \$18,746.14.
- 17. On December 14, 2017, investigators obtained records from Premier Chrysler Jeep of Placentia, CA, related to the purchase of the Chrysler 200 vehicle, which was the other vehicle identified by Turkish Customs as containing the seized firearms. According to the records, the purchaser of the 2016 Chrysler 200 vehicle, bearing VIN 1C3CCCAB7GN119865, was identified as PAUL BRUNT. The purchase records indicated the sale occurred on July 8, 2017, and the vehicle was paid for by a trade-in of a 2015 Chrysler 300 vehicle and cash in the amount of \$2,300.
- 18. On December 19, 2017, investigators obtained records from Atlantic Express Corp related to the exportation of the seized vehicles. According to Atlantic Express Corp, BRUNT interacted with the Seattle branch of Atlantic Express Corp, in person, to facilitate the shipment. The Seattle office was identified as Pacific Atlantic

1	Express Corp, 13008 142nd Ave East, Orting, WA 98360. The documents provided by	
2	Atlantic Express Corp included the EEI, Bill of Lading, Conditional Delivery Agreement	
. 3	Master Bill of Lading, Dock Receipt, copies of the vehicle titles, a copy of BRUNT's	
4	passport and driver's license, and a signed Limited Power of Attorney/Authorization	
5	Letter. The Limited Power of Attorney/Authorization Letter, which was signed by	
6	BRUNT and dated June 16, 2017, authorized Pacific Atlantic Express Corp. to act as a	
7	"designated agent" to export vehicles from the U.S. Additionally, BRUNT provided	
8	Pacific Atlantic Express Corp with a typed document/note containing the following	
9	contact information:	
10		
	Owner (Shipper) – Paul Brunt (Paul Brunt LLC) Contact: Paul Brunt	
11	Address: 3457 108th Ave SE Bellevue, WA 98004	
12	Phone: 425 761-7772 email: paulbrunt2@gmail.com	
13	TRANSPORT COMPANY – TURKEY TO KURDISTAN (IRAQ)	
14	Company: Akmar Ulus Nak. San. Ve. Tic. Ltd. Sti. Address: Camiserif Mah	
15	Cemalpasa Cad. Yuksel Apt. Kat: 4 No. 11	
16	Akdeniz-Mersin, Turkey Zip Code: 33060	
17	Tex number: 0320280728 Tel: +90 324 238 2052-53	
18	Fax: +90 324 238 2055	
19	Email: farukakdag@akmarnak.com	
20	Import Co. (IRAQ): Oneil Co.	
21	100m street	
22	Besides the Customs Directorate Erbil, IRAQ	
23	License # - 6514	
24	Phone: 964 750 447 18 86 Email: Oneilcarscompany@yahoo.com	
	Buyer Information: (Iraq) Saif Omer Khaili	
25	Street 100m	
26	Erbil, Iraq Phone: 964 750 483 32 34 (473 23 82)	
27	Email: Saifomer680@yahoo.com	
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В. 1 **BRUNT's Firearms Purchases** 2 19. On November 29, 2017, Special Agent (SA) Claudia Grigore, Bureau of 3 Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted a query to determine 4 whether any Seattle-area dealers holding a Federal Firearms License (FFL) had reported 5 multiple gun sales for BRUNT. The query identified eight incidents, yielding a total of 6 forty three firearms, beginning on October 5, 2016, and as recent as August 3, 2017. For 7 all eight purchases, the purchaser was identified as: 8 **Paul Stuart Brunt** 3457 108th Avenue Southeast (i.e., the SUBJECT PREMISES) 9 Bellevue, WA 98004 10 As for the details of the eight purchases: 11 20. First, on October 5, 2016, BRUNT purchased fifteen firearms from LC 12 Sports, 5925 156th Street SE, Snohomish, WA 98296. The firearms were identified by 13 the following make, model and serial numbers: 14 Glock 17GEN4; ABWG171 15 Glock 21GEN3; BBLX560 16 Colt; CJ58608 Smith & Wesson; FXX6888 17 HS Products (IM Metal) XDM; MG427275 18 Armscor of the Philippines (Squires Bingham) 1911A1; RIA1481854 Colt 1991A1; 2889505 19 Smith & Wesson M&P 9; HNB22917 20 Glock 19GEN3; BCMW865 Smith & Wesson; UFA2979 21 Colt Gold Cup Trophy; GCT48811 22 Sig Sauer 1911 STX; 54B130611 Taurus PT92; TIR51215 23 Glock 19GEN4; BCWF463 24 Glock 17GEN3; BCPA231 25 21. Second, on May 6, 2017, BRUNT purchased five firearms from 26 Washington Military Depot, 20015 Mountain Hwy E, Spanaway, WA. The firearms 27 were identified by the following make, model and serial numbers: 28 Colt 1991A1; 2934123

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1 2 3	Armscor of the Philippines; M1911-A1 Smith & Wesson M&P 45; HNK1971 Glock 17GEN4; BEGM344 Ruger SR1911; 671-53641	
4	22. Third, on May 8, 2017, BRUNT purchased five firearms from Ben's Loan	
5	Pawnshop, 1005 S. 2nd Street, Renton, WA. The firearms were identified by the	
6	following make, model and serial numbers:	
7	Magnum Research Desert Eagle; DK0034825	
8	Colt Government; CV43663 Glock 41GEN4; BAGA875	
10	Glock 40GEN4; BDGM267 Wesson Arms RZ-45 Heritage; 1606136	
11	23. Fourth, on June 3, 2017, BRUNT purchased three firearms from LC Sports	
12	in Snohomish. The firearms were identified by the following make, model and serial	
13	,, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
14	Sig Sauer 1911 C3; 54B151195	
15	New Frontier Armory; EP06163	
16	Walther Colt Government: WD036649	
17	24. Fifth, on June 10, 2017, BRUNT purchased four firearms from Ben's Loan	
18	Pawnshop in Renton. The firearms were identified by the following make, model and	
19	serial numbers:	
20	Smith & Wesson M&P 40; NAV8182	
21	Beretta, Pietro APX; A010414X Sig Sauer P320 X-Five; 58B235271	
22	Springfield Armory 1911A1; NM498910	
23		
24	25. Sixth, on June 15, 2017, BRUNT purchased four firearms from Rehv Arms,	
25	27623 Covington Way SE, Unit 2, Covington, WA 98042. The firearms were identified	
26	by the following make, model and serial numbers:	
27	Smith & Wesson M&P 9 Shield; HXP4127 CZ (Ceska Zbrojovka); C199252	
28	CZ; C148842	

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Smith & Wesson M&P M2.0; HWN2245

26. Seventh, on July 31, 2017, BRUNT purchased five firearms from Verle's LLC, 741 West Golden Pheasant Road, Shelton, WA. The firearms were identified by the following make, model and serial numbers:

Armscor of the Philippines Citadel; CIT024705 Metro Arms Corporation American Classic; A12-06348 Remington Arms Company; RHN63853A Ruger SR9; 337-12423 Ruger SR40; 342-99201

27. Eighth, on August 3, 2017, BRUNT purchased two firearms from Ben's Loan Pawnshop in Renton. The firearms were identified by the following make, model and serial numbers:

Glock 22GEN4; BBXG967 Smith & Wesson M&P M2.0; NAX6374

28. Investigators conducted a query of the Turkish gun seizure in open source databases and identified a video from a Turkish media source. A review of the video showed one of the seized guns, and close examination of the still video identified the gun as having a serial number of 54B155779. On January 12, 2018, SA Grigore confirmed through the ATF National Tracing Center that the serial number belonged to a Sig Sauer pistol, model 1911, .45 caliber, which was purchased by PAUL BRUNT on April 14, 2017, at a gun show in Monroe, Washington. Additionally, the pistol was part of a multiple sale transaction that included seven total handguns, and it was not reported appropriately by the FFL. Therefore, the seven guns did not appear in the previous query conducted by SA Grigore for multiple firearm purchases. The other six firearms purchased were identified by the following make, model and serial numbers:

Springfield Armory Pistol XDS 45; S4127084 Armscor Pistol RI1911; RIA793914 Sig Sauer 1911; 54B104691 Walther PPQ; FCG1036 HK Pistol USP45; 25-151970DE

Armscor Pistol RI Tactical 1911; RIA1808109

C. The Prior Export

- 29. Investigators conducted queries of U.S. export records for PAUL BRUNT. The queries identified one previous shipment on February 23, 2017. According to export records for that shipment, PAUL BRUNT LLC was identified as the exporter. The ultimate consignee was identified as Oneil Co., 100M Street, Erbil, 44001, Iraq. The forwarding agent was identified as GEFCO Forwarding USA, 1055 Stevenson Court, Unit 105W, Roselle, IL 60172. The records further indicated that the shipment consisted of one used vehicle, which was described as a 2015 Chrysler, VIN 1C3CCCAB6FN607302.
- 30. Further queries of U.S. export records identified two additional shipments on February 23, 2017, that appeared related to this shipment. Both of the two additional shipments indicated the same ultimate consignee and forwarding agent. According to export records for the first of those two shipments, a particular individual was identified as the exporter; he listed his address as BRUNT's residence. The exporter for the second shipment was identified as Rawnd Khaleel. The export records further indicated the first shipment consisted of one used vehicle, which was described as a 2015 Mitsubishi, VIN ML32A3HJ1FH032697; the second shipment consisted of one used vehicle, which was described as a 2015 Dodge Charger, VIN 2C3CDXBG4FH835872.
- 31. As discussed below, Rawnd Khaleel, the person listed as the exporter for the second shipment, has also been associated with the name "RAWND ALDALAWI." Investigators conducted a search of "RAWND ALDALAWI" in law enforcement databases. Investigators learned that a B2 tourist visa had been issued for ALDALAWI, for June 21, 2016, through June 19, 2017.
- 32. Additional queries in DHS databases identified a FinCEN8300 report filed in the name of RAWND KAHALEEL for a cash payment made in excess of \$10,000 (\$15,884). The report, which was filed on December 13, 2016, related to the purchase of

a 2015 Dodge Charger vehicle bearing VIN 2C3CDXBG4FH835872, which was the same vehicle shipped by KHALEEL on February 23, 2017, to Oneil CO. in Iraq. The report was filed by Bob Hall Honda in Yakima, WA.

33. The FinCEN8300 report identified KAHALEEL as having an Iraqi passport number of A7192015, which revealed an address of 45610 Ahrawany, Erbil, Iraq. The date of birth and passport number indicated for KAHALEEL on the report are consistent with those identified for Rawnd (Khaleel) Aldalawi. Further queries in DHS databases also identified several FinCEN8300 reports filed in BRUNT's name for cash payments made in excess of \$10,000. One of these reports, which was filed on November 26, 2016, related to the purchase of a 2015 Chrysler 200 vehicle bearing VIN 1C3CCCAB6FN607302, which was the same vehicle shipped by PAUL BRUNT LLC on February 23, 2017, to Oneil CO. in Iraq.

D. The Interview of BRUNT

- 34. On January 18, 2018, investigators interviewed PAUL BRUNT. BRUNT waived his *Miranda* Rights and agreed to answer questions from investigators. BRUNT stated that, sometime in approximately late 2016, RAWND ALDALAWI and another individual approached him about helping them purchase vehicles in the U.S. to ship to Iraq.³
- 35. BRUNT explained that, approximately three or four weeks after the initial discussion, ALDALAWI and the other individual asked him if they could send weapons with the cars. BRUNT stated that they offered him \$5,000 to do it and explained they specifically requested new guns, which, according to ALDALAWI and the other individual, would be going directly to the Kurdistan area in Iraq for the Kurdish Army.

³ Throughout the interview, the timeframe of this discussion varied; however, BRUNT acknowledged later in the interview the discussion likely occurred around October 2016. This timeframe is consistent with previously obtained firearm purchase records and travel records for ALDALAWI and the other individual mentioned by BRUNT as being part of the scheme.)

- 36. BRUNT stated he agreed to the scheme. He said he purchased all of the guns, and explained that the other individual provided him with cash to purchase them. BRUNT added that he communicated exclusively with the other individual; however, BRUNT believed ALDALAWI's family funded the purchase of the guns and vehicles.
- 37. BRUNT stated that the first shipment, which occurred in approximately February 2017, consisted of approximately 30 guns divided among three vehicles. BRUNT explained that he, ALDALAWI, and the other individual each purchased a vehicle; however, he was not involved in packing the guns into the vehicles. BRUNT stated that, according to ALDALAWI and the other individual, the guns were wrapped in black tape and placed in the door cavities, or other cavities, of the vehicles. BRUNT explained that ALDALAWI and the other individual both departed for Iraq before the vehicles were shipped. BRUNT recalled dropping off the vehicles, loaded with the guns, at the freight forwarder after ALDALAWI and the other individual traveled to Iraq.
- 38. BRUNT stated that the second shipment, which occurred in September 2017 and was subsequently seized in Turkey, consisted of approximately 47 guns divided between two vehicles. BRUNT stated he coordinated the second shipment exclusively with ALDALAWI, as the other individual did not return from Iraq with ALDALAWI. BRUNT stated ALDALAWI returned to Seattle from Iraq a few months after he departed. (Previously obtained travel records revealed ALDALAWI returned on February 28, 2017.) BRUNT explained that he purchased both vehicles, but he was again not involved in packing the guns into the vehicles. BRUNT stated he received two or three wire transfers from ALDALAWI's brother in Iraq, totaling approximately \$120,000, for the purchase of the guns, the vehicles, and the fees associated with the export.
- 39. BRUNT stated he was offered \$10,000 for the second shipment. BRUNT explained he took \$5,000 for himself out of the \$120,000, since he was never paid for the first shipment. BRUNT stated he then took the \$10,000 they offered him for the second

shipment and used the remainder of the money to purchase the guns, the cars, and pay for shipping the container.

- 40. BRUNT stated he did not research any export rules and regulations; however, he knew it was likely illegal to ship firearms from the United States without a license. Moreover, BRUNT acknowledged that, based on how ALDALAWI and the other individual had explained how they wrapped the guns and placed them in the door cavities of the car, the guns were not being shipped legally.
- 41. BRUNT reviewed a copy of a Turkish media video obtained by investigators in open source databases, which documented the recent seizure of the guns by Turkish authorities. BRUNT specifically reviewed the images of the vehicles in the video and stated "those look like the cars."

E. The Interview of ALDALAWI

- 42. On January 18, 2018, investigators interviewed ALDALAWI at the Tukwila Processing Center. The interview was conducted in Arabic using the assistance of a certified interpreter. ALDALAWI signed a *Miranda* waiver of rights form, which was verbally translated from English to Arabic.
- 43. ALDALAWI said that he had he was the one who put the guns in the cars, that he shipped vehicles with BRUNT, and that he got caught the second time around. He also acknowledged calling the port to inquire about the seized shipment in Turkey.
- 44. When asked how many guns ALDALAWI put in the first shipment, he stated he thought it was about 25 guns, but acknowledged that number could have been between 25 and 30 total guns. ALDALAWI confirmed he put the guns inside the vehicles' door cavities and wrapped the guns up. ALDALAWI confirmed he divided the guns, whether 25 or 30, among the three vehicles shipped.
- 45. ALDALAWI explained he has family who is part of the Peshmerga military in Kurdistan. ALDALAWI stated the Iraqi Government will not accept any weapons to go to Peshmerga and that his objective was to get these weapons to the Peshmerga forces in a secure and legal way. After being confronted with the fact that

wrapping the guns up did not indicate he was proceeding in a legal manner, ALDALAWI stated, "We are agreeing, I am agreeing that this was not quite legal here, but for the Iraqi arrangement, it is legal." ALDALAWI added he did not know the law in the United States and reiterated he was sure the Iraqi government would never allow weapons to go into Peshmerga, but he was not sure about the agreement between Peshmerga and the United States.

- 46. ALDALAWI stated his objective was to buy the weapons legally, but make sure they arrived safely. ALDALAWI said that the Iraqi Government did nothing to help the Peshmerga people when ISIS came. ALDALAWI stated, "It may be that I did something without knowing the legalities of it. We hope that we get a license between government and government. So the Ministry in Peshmerga has given us such license, it's the United States that needs to give us this."
- 47. ALDALAWI stated he and another individual explained the situation to BRUNT and that BRUNT was understanding. ALDALAWI said that he divided up the weapons, not BRUNT, but confirmed that BRUNT purchased the guns. ALDALAWI stated that BRUNT would bring the guns to ALDALAWI'S apartment and that ALDALAWI would put them directly into the cars.
- 48. ALDALAWI said that money was transferred to BRUNT's account by his brother in Iraq. ALDALAWI confirmed both shipments went to his brother at ONeil company. ALDALAWI stated his brother gets the cars with the weapons inside and takes them to the Peshmerga Ministry.

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CONCLUSION 2 49. Based on the above facts, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause 3 to believe that PAUL STUART BRUNT and RAWND KHALEEL ALDALAWI did 4 conspire to violate the AECA by exporting firearms to Iraq without a license, in violation 5 of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371. 6 7 8 Shad Severson, Complainant 9 Special Agent, HSI 10 11 Based on the Complaint and Affidavit sworn to before me, and subscribed in my 12 presence, the Court hereby finds that there is probable cause to believe the Defendants 13 committed the offense set forth in the Complaint. 14 15 Dated this 23rd day of January, 2018. 16 17 18 19 20 hief United States Magistrate Judge 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28